

PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

To: Associated Press
Bluefield Daily Telegraph
The Register-Herald (Beckley)
The Charleston Daily Mail
The Charleston Gazette
The Coal Valley News
The Herald Dispatch (Huntington)
The Logan Banner
Parkersburg News and Sentinel
Point Pleasant Register
The State Journal
WV Focus
The West Virginia Record
WCHS-TV
WOWK-TV
WSAZ-TV
WYAH-TV

From: Teresa L. Deppner, Clerk of Court

Date: November 23, 2015

Content: JURY SCAM - Southern District of West Virginia

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Teresa L. Deppner".

Citizens in the Southern District of West Virginia are being targeted by phone calls and threatened with prosecution for failing to appear for jury service in federal court.

In this scam, the caller identifies himself as a representative of the court and asks for the victim by name. The caller tells the person that they failed to report for grand jury duty, that a bench warrant has been issued against them for their arrest, and that there will be a fine. The dollar amount is substantial. The caller instructs the victim to immediately pay the fine by credit card or by obtaining a prepaid card. The caller provides a West Virginia call-back number with an extension and a court representative's name. The victim is also given the option of personally appearing in federal court at 8:45 a.m. the next business day.

These calls are not from real court officials. Our Court does not call jurors (or anyone else) asking for fine payments, credit card numbers, or any other personal information. Should you receive one of these calls, please contact the FBI at (304) 346-2300.

For more information about potential jury scams, please visit our website at <http://www.wvsc.uscourts.gov/notices-regarding-scams>.